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STANLEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORTS

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MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1946

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STANLEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1946.

Stanley,
August, 1947.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present to your Council my report on the Stanley Urban District for the year 1946.

SECTION A—Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area :

Area (acres)	12,658
Population (estimated mid 1946)	48,110
Number of inhabited houses	13,250
Rateable Value	£190,042
Sum represented by the penny rate	£688

The chief industry carried on in the Area is that of coal-mining, mostly deep seam.

The extent of unemployment in the district during the year was almost negligible as is evidenced by the cost of relief figures. The amount shown is slightly higher than that of 1945 but this is possibly due to the increase in the relief paid to the aged and infirm people, the number of whom is increasing. It is estimated that the persons over 65 years of age in the Area now comprise over 10% of the population as compared with 9% in 1939.

COST OF RELIEF :

Statement of Relief disbursed in the Area for

	£
1939	75,456
1940	60,287
1941	40,693
1942	33,361
1943	29,310
1944	29,580
1945	32,530
1946	33,506

LIVE BIRTHS :

	Males	Females	Totals
Legitimate	478	460	938
Illegitimate	23	14	37
Totals	501	474	975

Birthrate .... 20.27 per 1,000 population.

STILL BIRTHS :	Males	Females	Totals
Legitimate	26	12	38
Illegitimate	2	2	4
Totals	28	14	42
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births			41.2
DEATHS	310	263	573
Deathrate per 1,000 estimated average population			11.9

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES :

—	Nil.	Nil.

There have been no deaths from any maternal cause during the last year, which reflects great credit on the Maternity and Child Welfare Services, the Hospital and Domiciliary Midwifery Services and the General Practitioners in the Area.

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE :

	Males	Females	Totals
Legitimate	25	20	45
Illegitimate	1	2	3
Totals	26	22	48

DEATHRATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE :

All infants per 1,000 live births	49
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	47
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	81

The infant mortality rate in 1946 in the Area was thus 49 per 1,000 related live births. This constitutes a new low record as compared with 54 in 1945, 57 in 1944 and 73 in 1939.

Infant mortality rate is a delicate index of the health in the Area and it also indicates that the special efforts being made to safeguard child health are achieving success. However the infant mortality rate for England and Wales in 1946 was 43, and thus the rate for the Area is still too high in comparison with the country as a whole.

The causes of the 48 infant deaths in this Area during the year are as follows :—

Broncho Pneumonia	19
Prematurity	15
Congenital Defect	4
Accident (asphyxia)	3
Gastritis and Gastro-Enteritis	2
Intussusception	1
Natural Causes	1
Birth Injury	3
Total	48

DEATHS FROM CANCER (all ages)	88
DEATHS FROM MEASLES (all ages)	Nil.
DEATHS FROM WHOOPING COUGH (all ages)	2
DEATHS FROM DIARRHOEA (under 2 yrs. of age)	1

VITAL STATISTICS :

Causes of Death	Male	Female	Total
ALL CAUSES	310	263	573
Whooping Cough	—	2	2
Diphtheria	—	1	1
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	10	7	17
Other forms of Tuberculosis	2	5	7
Syphilitic diseases	2	—	2
Influenza	1	1	2
Cancer	41	47	88
Diabetes.....	—	2	2
Intracranial vascular lesion	34	24	58
Heart Disease	87	65	152
Other diseases of circulatory system	11	12	23
Bronchitis	19	11	30
Pneumonia	20	11	31
Other respiratory diseases	3	2	5
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	1	1	2
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	—	1	1
Appendicitis	2	—	2
Other digestive diseases	4	8	12
Nephritis	5	7	12
Puerperal and post abortion sepsis	—	—	—
Other Maternal causes.....	—	—	—
Premature Birth	9	6	15
Congenital malformation, birth injury, infant disease	3	4	7
Suicide	5	3	8
Road traffic accidents	6	1	7
Other violent causes	9	1	10
All other causes	36	41	77

The main causes of death continue to be disease of the heart and circulatory system, cancer, bronchitis and pneumonia in this order.

The arduous and dangerous nature of the deep-seam coal mining taking place in the Area is reflected by the five deaths from accidents in the mines during the year.

It is noted that there has been an increase in deaths from road traffic accidents over 1945 and the figures since 1939 are :—

1939	Nil.
1940	3
1941	3
1942	3
1943	2
1944	8
1945	3
1946	7

Accidents in the home have been responsible for 6 deaths during the year, three elderly persons and three infants being affected.

Deathrate for England and Wales (all causes)	11.5 per 1,000 pop.
Birthrate for England and Wales	19.1 per 1,000 pop.
Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales	43 per 1,000 live births.

The following vital statistics give a comparison between County Durham and those of your own district :—

	Durham County	**Stanley U.D.**
	per 1,000 pop.	
Birthrate	21.3	20.58
Deathrate	11.6	11.9
Zymotic Deathrate	0.16	0.08
Diphtheria	0.02	0.02
Measles	0.02	Nil.
Whooping Cough	0.03	0.04
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	0.09	0.02
Influenza	0.09	0.04
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	49	49
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	2.62	Nil.

SECTION B—General Provision of Health Services for the Area :

1. (i) On the 1st April, 1946 I took up the appointment of Temporary Full-time Medical Officer of Health of your Area in succession to Dr. W. M. Morrison who had been in office for 33 years, during which time great strides had been made in the state of the public health of your Area.

Full particulars of the Sanitary Officers of your authority are shown at the head of the report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector for the year 1946.

(ii) (*a*) **Laboratory facilities** :—These continue to be provided by the Joint Committee's Central Public Health Laboratory, The Medical School, King's College, Newcastle upon Tyne, under the direction of Dr. S. H. Warren, whose help during the year has been invaluable.

The following table gives particulars of the specimens sent in by the Health Department and Medical Practitioners in the Area for examination during the year :—

Bacteriological Examinations.

	Number of Specimens Submitted	Results	
		Pos.	Neg.
Enteric Group Fever	366	53	313
Diphtheria	123	16	107
Phthisis (Sputum)	240	23	217
Dysentery	30	4	26
Miscellaneous	18	10	8
Totals	777	106	671

In addition to the above, 10 Milk Samples, 17 Water Samples and 19 Ice-cream Samples were submitted for bacteriological examination.

4 Milk Samples, 4 Water Samples and 9 Ice-cream Samples were found to be satisfactory.

Although the final figure of specimens submitted for bacteriological investigation in 1945 was 814 specimens there has been a great increase in the number taken for the control of infectious disease during 1946. The reason is that the 1945 figure includes bacteriological work carried out in the Tanfield Hospital which was in your Area whereas the similar work carried out this year is included in the Lanchester District statistics.

(*c*) NURSING IN THE HOME :—

This has continued to be carried out by the 4 Nursing Associations in the district whose records for the year show an increase in the number of cases attended and also the number of visits paid.

The following is a short summary of the excellent work carried out by these Nursing Associations.

	Cases Attended	Visits Paid
Stanley and District Nursing Assoc.	633	12,602
Burnopfield and District Nursing Assoc.	198	4,080
Annfield Plain and District Nursing Assoc.	83	1,799
Tanfield and District Nursing Assoc.	201	5,735
Totals	1,115	24,216

(*d*) TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS :—

A continuation of the scheme for the treatment of Scabies, which was commenced in April, 1942, was carried out at the Scabies Treatment Centre, Front Street, Stanley.

The local general practitioners have co-operated in the scheme by sending to the Centre any cases which had not satisfactory means of home treatment.

All known cases were visited for possible contacts and arrangements made for examinations at the Centre by the Council's Medical Officer of Health.

All cases diagnosed for local treatment received baths and then treated with Benzol Benzoate on two successive days. This treatment proved very effective and very few return cases were reported. One bad case was sent for hospital treatment.

252 persons received treatment during the year as compared with 672 in 1942, 842 in 1943, 572 in 1944 and 297 in 1945, thus making a total of 2,635 since the inception of the scheme.

(*e*) HOSPITALS—PUBLIC AND VOLUNTARY :—

In 1945 the new Central Isolation Hospital was opened at Lanchester and in the year 1946 the post of Medical Superintendent was taken up by Dr. L. H. Murray, O.B.E., whose co-operation was greatly appreciated. It is considered that the results of treatment of cases of infectious diseases in the new Central Isolation Hospital have been excellent—for example only one case of Diphtheria died although there were 37 true cases of the disease admitted, some of them severe cases of Gravis infection.

The only other hospital in this district is a small 38 bed hospital at Craghead kept up by the Holmside & South Moor Collieries for the benefit of their workers and families.

In the main the hospitalisation of patients from this district is to the Newcastle group of hospitals.

SECTION C—Sanitary Circumstances of the Area :—

1. (i) **Water** :—There have been no new sources of supply in the area during the year and, with the exception of a temporary shortage in the mining village of No Place during the summer, the supply of water in the area has been satisfactory in quantity. From August to November 17 water samples were taken from various house taps direct from the main and 13 of these indicated that chlorination of the water supplied by the Durham County Water Board had been inadequate and that bacteriologically they were not satisfactory samples of water and in 4 of them the bacteriological result was reported to be satisfactory. On enquiry to the Chief Engineer it was ascertained that chlorination at the source was being carried out to the maximum capacity of the plant and that application had been made to the Ministry of Health for sanction to meet the greater demand for water which is now being made on the reservoirs and that the Board were at the request of the Ministry of Health carrying out further tests throughout the area of supply with a view to a possible modification of the scheme submitted.

(ii) **Drainage and Sewerage** :—During the year the Ministry of Health agreed to the new schemes for Craghead and Causey. On completion of the former, the existing works at the Middles and at Craghead will be eliminated and the sewage now being treated at these works will now be taken to the big and modern works at Hustledown. The new Causey works will cut out antiquated and unsatisfactory existing works at West Kyo, Clough Dene, Tantobie, Tanfield Lea, West Shield Row and Tanfield. With agreement from the Ministry it is expected that work on the Craghead scheme will commence in the near future.

2. **Rivers and Streams.** No action was taken during the year in regard to pollution of rivers and streams in the area.

SECTION D—Housing :—

In my report for the month of June, 1946 it stated that a preliminary appreciation of the situation in the Urban District with regard to housing accommodation had been made.

The broad outline of the picture was that there were 13,200 houses in the district and of this number 200 individual houses had been scheduled for demolition under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936 prior to the commencement of the War in 1939. On a general survey since 1939 a further 900 houses had been scheduled as doubtful properties to be dealt with similarly as soon as houses are available for replacement. This made a grand total of 1,100 houses which were considered unfit for human habitation in their present condition.

The housing position is however aggravated by overcrowding which was found in 1939 to be 850 families and which, considering the applications for Council houses, it is estimated that the figure had been increased to the region of 1,200.

The most serious health hazard in the housing situation was said to be the spread of Pulmonary Tuberculosis. There were 60 Sputum positive cases living in homes in the district and not all of these were in adequate houses considering the danger of spreading the infection especially to young persons.

It was noted that a 10% allocation of tenancies of Council houses had been awarded to all medical cases and a preliminary survey showed that there were 13 medical cases which it was wished to have rehoused immediately. In all 43 applications on Medical Grounds for tenancy of a Council House were received during the year and by the end of the year after priority had been given, 8 were rehoused. Care was taken that in rehousing these cases that the principles of M'Gonigle at Stockton were observed so that the incidence of infection should not be increased.

In the report of June it was hoped that an increased priority of houses to this district could be granted on the following three grounds :—

(*a*) The relatively large number of houses at present occupied which are considered unfit for habitation together with the gross overcrowding in others.

(*b*) The geographical exposure of the district which is approximately 800 ft. above sea level, together with the dampness, which cannot be remedied, owing to the severe weathering on the majority of houses.

(*c*) The national priority of the local industry and the necessity of maintaining the positive health of the workers in the coal mines in the district.

This area provides classical examples of colliery subsidence affecting houses.

SECTION E—Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938—Section 13 :—All the bakeries, restaurants and Ice-cream manufacturers in the Area were visited by me during the year and I was not satisfied that in all cases the standard of cleanliness in the handling and preparation of food was as high as it should be. However, during the year improvement in the general standard of cleanliness occurred in all concerns.

SECTION F—Prevalance of, and Control over, Infectious and other Diseases :—

Notifiable Diseases reported during the year 1946 :—The following table gives particulars of the incidence of notifiable diseases (other than Tuberculosis) in the area during the year 1946.

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Smallpox	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Scarlet Fever	50	48	Nil.
Diphtheria	101	101	1
Enteric Fever (including Para-typhoid)	18	18	Nil.
Puerperal Pyrexia	5	3	Nil.
Pneumonia	98	19	31
Measles	619	7	Nil.
Whooping Cough	251	21	2
Cerebro Spinal Fever	7	6	Nil.
Erysipelas	14	6	Nil.
Opthalmia Neonatorum	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	1	Nil.
Food Poisoning	9	2	Nil.
Scabies	144	1	Nil.

A general review of the prevalence of notifiable infectious diseases during the year shows that owing to outbreaks of Measles and Whooping Cough the total notifications are greatly in excess of 1945. However, the notifications in respect of Scarlet Fever are the lowest in one year since 1910. The disease incidentally has been mild in type and the average length of stay in hospital for a Scarlet Fever case has been one month.

The number of notifications of Diphtheria, 101, was the lowest number received since 1917 and compares well with the figure 194 for the year 1945. Of these 101 notified cases only 37 were ultimately diagnosed as cases of Diphtheria which is also much less than the corresponding figure of 97 for 1945. Another observation on the incidence of Diphtheria is that there is an increased incidence in females in age groups over 10 years. This is possibly due to the infection by schick negative carriers in children under 5 years of age. There was only one death from Diphtheria during the year and this again is the lowest figure ever to be obtained. There is only one way to control Diphtheria

Analysis of the Notified Cases under Age Groups for 1946.

Disease.	Under 1 Year	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65	Age Unknown	Totals
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	1	—	1	3	3	24	12	3	3	—	—	—	—	50
Diphtheria	1	3	5	4	3	22	19	16	21	3	4	—	—	101
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	—	—	2	3	—	2	2	1	5	—	3	—	—	18
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	5
Pneumonia	8	9	6	7	3	13	3	4	13	6	11	14	1	98
Whooping Cough	22	37	42	38	34	70	—	1	—	—	—	1	6	251
Measles	17	77	93	82	77	261	8	—	2	—	—	—	2	619
Dysentery	—	2	—	—	—	3	2	—	2	1	1	1	—	12
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	12	1	—	14
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	1	2	—	1	—	—	7
Poliomyrelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Scabies	—	4	1	3	1	32	23	11	37	17	6	1	8	144
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	2	3	2	—	9
Totals	49	133	150	141	121	429	70	38	91	29	41	20	17	1,329

in this district—a mass active immunisation of the child population of this district. It will be observed from the following table that at the end of the year 1946, in spite of active measures to ensure immunisation of children under 5 years of age against Diphtheria, a simple and safe procedure, only one out of every three children under 5 years of age had been protected by active immunisation. The disease can only be adquately controlled when 60 to 75% of the children from 0–15 years of age have been immunised against the disease. Three clinics were opened in October in an attempt to raise the number of children being protected. It was however, soon realised that the best way to ensure this would be an immunisation campaign in the schools for school children and also to encourage the mothers who have children under 5 years of age to attend at the school with their younger children for the latter to be immunised.

In conclusion, although the number of cases and number of deaths from Diphtheria are declining rapidly, this Urban District still stands out from other areas as regards Diphtheria incidence.

DIPHTHERIA NOTIFICATIONS AND DEATHS IN RELATION TO IMMUNISATION.

Age at date of notification or death	No. of cases notified	No of cases. included in preceding column who have been immunised	No. of deaths notified	No. of cases included in preceding column who had been mmunised
Under 1 year	1	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
1 year	1	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
2 years	3	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
3 years	2	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
4 years	3	1	Nil.	Nil.
5–9 years	11	1	1	Nil.
10–14 years	8	1	Nil.	Nil.
Totals	29	3	1	Nil.

IMMUNISATION IN RELATION TO CHILD POPULATION

Number of Children who had completed a full course of Immunisation at any time up to 31st December, 1946.

Age at 31.12.46 and year born	No. of Cases Immunised		Estimated mid-year population 1946
	Including 1939 figures	Excluding 1939 figures	
Under 1 (1946)	1	1	3,860
1 (1945)	244	244	
2 (1944)	373	373	
3 (1943)	330	330	
4 (1942)	292	292	
5–9 (1937—1941)	1,971	1,826	7,200
10–14 (1932—1936)	3,191	1,738	
Total under 15	6,402	4,804	11,060

It is noted that 2,026 children received one injection with Alum Precipitated Toxoid in 1939 and it is doubtful if the residual immunity from this one injection would be sufficient to prevent a clinical infection so that the true figures for your area would be those excluding the 1939 figures. It should be noted that the difference only lies in the school children of 5 to 14 years.

From the table it is seen that at the end of the year 1946 :—

(i) 32% of children under 5 had been immunised.
(ii) 49% of children from 5 to 14 had been immunised.
(iii) 43% of children from birth to 14 years of age had been immunised.

The prophylactic used was Wellcome Alum Precipitated Toxoid obtained from the Joint Committee's Central Public Health Laboratory, Newcastle as required.

During the year the following children have been immunised i.e. have received two spaced injections of Alum Precipitated Toxoid :—

Age	No. Immunised
Under 1	1
1	243
2	145
3	71
4	35
5 to 9	106
10 to 14	13
Total under 15 years of age	614

In addition to this there were 52 reinforcing injections in children who had been immunised more than 4 years previously.

90% of these injections were given by the Medical Officer of Health.

Diphtheria anti-toxin is supplied to practitioners in the area if and when application is made to the Medical Officer of Health.

Whooping Cough :—An outbreak of Whooping Cough started in May in the Burnopfield area with 16 cases, spread throughout the area by July, and in all there were 251 cases of the disease of whom 21 were admitted to hospital. There were two deaths, both in females, the first in an infant aged 1 month and the second in a child of 7 years. The progress of immunisation against Pertussis in this Country is closely watched in this district where a reliable Pertussis Vaccine will be of great value as owing to the exposed nature of the Area, most of which stands about 800 feet above sea level, any respiratory complaint is more liable to complications than in the more sheltered areas. During the year Whooping Cough has been the more fatal of the three common infectious diseases, Measles, Whooping Cough and Scarlet Fever.

Measles :—During the last two months of the year an epidemic of Measles occurred in the child population of this district. At the time it was reported that in this country these outbreaks occur approximately every two years, the last outbreak in this Area being in the winter months of 1944.

Owing to the high infectivity during the rather long incubation period and also the great susceptibility of those who have not undergone an attack, it is impossible to avert these epidemics or alter their trend appreciably by isolation measures alone. The attack rate was highest in the age group 5 to 6 and there were no deaths notified from the total of 619 cases. The disease has lately been milder in type.

Pneumonia :—The number of cases of and deaths from this condition was twice as great in 1946 as in the previous year when 45 cases were notified, 4 hospitalised and there were 15 deaths. The main incidence fell in the first three months of the year with 36 cases and also, as this table shows, in the infants under 1 year.

Age	No. of Deaths
Under 1	19
1–10	—
11–20	1
21–30	2
31–40	1
41–50	1
51–60	1
61–70	4
71–80	1
81–90	1
Total	31

Enteric Group Fever :—12 cases of Para-typhoid Fever occurred in your district during 1946, all these cases of infection had type 1 Salmonella Para-typhosum B. The first case was notified during the week ending 24th August and the last during the week ending 21st September. The location of the cases were 4 in Stanley, 3 in Tantobie, 2 in Dipton and 1 each in Annfield Plain, Craghead and No Place, Beamish.

It is thought that these cases were all infected during the first fortnight of July and they were caused by the lighting up of the carrier condition in an old unknown case of the disease. In spite of most active measures to trace the source, no proof was available although the blood re-actions of two employees of one firm showed the unusual and somewhat suggestive blood agglutinations. The urine and faeces however, proved negative.

Neither case had a history of being in the Services. A fuller and more detailed report will be made during 1947.

Dysentery :—During the year there were 12 notifications of Dysentery of which 9 were later confirmed as positive cases. The most common type is due to the Sonne bacillus. In addition there were 9 cases of Food Poisoning reported and investigation of all these cases was carried out.

It is interesting to note that a case of infection with Salmonella Potsdam occurred in the Area in September and this is, I understand, the first time that this organism has been isolated both from the urine and faeces of a single case in this Country.

4. PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS :

No action was taken under Section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936 for the prevention of blindness or for the treatment of any disease or injury to the eyes. There were no cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

TUBERCULOSIS :

There was no action taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925 (relating to persons suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis employed in the milk trade), or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936 (relating to the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from Tuberculosis).

Particulars of new cases of Tuberculosis and of deaths from the disease in the Area during 1946 is shown in the following table :—

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
5	1	—	—	3	—	—	—	—
10	3	1	1	2	1	—	1	—
15	4	2	1	2	1	1	—	1
20	2	6	—	—	1	4	—	—
25	8	7	1	—	—	2	—	—
35	3	7	—	—	2	1	—	—
45	3	—	—	—	3	—	—	2
55	5	—	—	1	1	1	—	—
65	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
Age Unknown	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	30	26	3	8	10	9	2	3
	56		11		19		5	
	67				24			

TUBERCULOSIS DEATHRATE

Deathrates (per 1,000 population) for the last 10 years, as compared with those of Durham County and England and Wales.

Year	Durham County		Stanley U.D.		England & Wales	
	Pulmonary	Non. Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
1946	0.50	0.13	0.39	0.10	0.48	0.08
1945	0.55	0.13	0.40	0.17	0.52	0.10
1944	0.51	0.12	0.39	0.06	0.52	0.10
1943	0.63	0.11	0.49	0.17	0.56	0.11
1942	0.53	0.15	0.44	0.04	0.54	0.12
1941	0.65	0.13	0.54	0.15	0.60	0.13
1940	0.61	0.10	0.40	0.18	0.59	0.11
1939	0.58	0.14	0.32	0.18	0.52	0.09
1938	0.53	0.14	0.29	0.02	0.53	0.10
1937	0.59	0.15	0.30	0.15	0.58	0.11

There were 9 non-notified deaths in a total of 24 Tuberculosis deaths. A routine revision of the Tuberculosis Register was planned to take place early in the new year. I consider that the notification of Tuberculosis in the Area is efficient.

Although there were 67 cases notified in the year and this was an increase over the 45 notified cases for the previous year there have been fewer deaths—24—than the 27 occurring in the year 1945. It is thought that the cases are being notified earlier on in the disease than previously. Thus the increase in notifications of Pulmonary Tuberculosis in the Area may mean that ascertainment of cases of the disease is better than previously rather than that the incidence of the disease has increased.

The Deathrate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis in the Area which increased yearly from 1938 and reached a peak in 1941, is slightly less in 1946 than in the previous year and the Tuberculosis Deathrate in the Area is again appreciably less in the Area than in County Durham as a whole.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS :

During the year the Health Department has been formed at the Council Offices at Tantobie which lies centrally in your Area.

There has been the greatest of co-operation from Mr. K. Elliott, Chief Sanitary Inspector and the District Sanitary Inspectors whose work, during the year has been excellent.

The office staff has been augmented by the appointments of a clerk to the Medical Officer of Health and a further clerk to the Sanitary Department. A very high standard of work carried out by the Health Department clerks during the year has been maintained.

Contact has been made with the No. 1 Area Representative of the Central Council for Health Education in Newcastle. Health Education is, I think, an inportant aspect of preventative medicine in your Area.

A permanent Record of Social and Health Conditions, which will show clearly the amelioration in the conditions in your Area, has been started by the Health Department.

The state of health in your Area during the year has been good.

I wish to express my thanks for the consideration and support of the Council and members of the staff.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

JOHN LEIPER,

M.B.E., M.B., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

STANLEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1946.

STAFF :—

Chief Sanitary Inspector	K. ELLIOTT, M.S.I.A., C.R.SAN.I., Certificated Meat and Foods Inspector.
Deputy Chief Sanitary Inspector	S. L. HETHERINGTON, M.S.I.A., C.R.SAN.I., Certificated Meat and Foods Inspector.
District Inspectors	J. W. RICHARDS, M.S.I.A., C.R.SAN.I. J. B. McGREGOR, Pupil Sanitary Inspector.

I herewith submit the Annual Report for work carried out by the Sanitary Department during the Year :—

HOUSING ACTS :

Repairs to Property : Owing to the scarcity of labour and materials it has been very difficult to maintain property in a good state of repair, therefore, the department has only asked for essential work to be done to keep the houses reasonably fit for habitation.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND HOUSING ACTS :

The following is a summary of notices served under the various headings :—

	No. of Nuisances or defects dealt with by Informal Notices.	No. of Nuisances or defects dealt with by Formal Notices by Order of the Council	No. of Nuisances or defects abated or remedied after service of Notices
Dwelling Houses and Schools :			
Foul conditions	9	—	6
Structural defects	300	16	95
Overcrowding	1	—	1
Ashpits and Privies	39	1	13
Deposits of Refuse and Manure	1	—	—
Water-closets	45	4	21
Defective Yard Paving	10	—	2
House Drainage :			
Defective Traps	2	—	—
Other faults	89	6	22
Water Supply	4	—	4
Animals improperly kept	1	—	—
Dustbins	47	—	7
Rats and Mice	5	—	1
Other Nuisances	16	—	6
Totals	569	27	178

ANALYSIS OF INSPECTIONS, 1946 :

Housing Defects—Inspections	414
Re-visits	466
Drains	279
Water-closets	24
Ashpits	35
Yards	4
Foul conditions	24
Housing Acts—Inspections	354
Overcrowding	47
Meat Pool	195
Cowsheds, Dairies, Milkshops	75
Milk Samples	32
Deposits of Refuse	22
Factories and Workshops	150
Animals Improperly Kept	6
Smoke Nuisances"	3
Infectious Diseases	311
Privy Conversions	32
Refuse Collections and Disposal	66
Appointments	432
Miscellaneous	121
Cottagers' Pigs	250
Unsound Food	105
Scabies	83
Council Houses	521
Verminous Premises	12
Rats and Mice	70
Ice-cream	68
Water Samples	22
Shops	52
Food Premises	15
Ashbins	2
Water Supplies	5
TOTAL of Inspections	4,297

SANITARY CONVENIENCES :

During the year 7 privies were converted into water-closets.

The number of privies converted into water-closets since 1931 is as follows :—

1931	151	
1932	155	
1933	1,664	(includes Scheme for 1,460)
1934	250	
1935	142	
1936	230	
1937	103	
1938	47	
1939	471	(Part Scheme for 1,295)
1940	3	
1941	1	
1942	2	
1943	6	
1944	12	
1945	6	
1946	7	
Total	3,250	

The following are the types of conveniences in the area :—

Water-closets	10,991
Privies	2,381
Dry Ashpits	3,915
Ashbins	6,595

REFUSE COLLECTION :

House refuse is collected from 6,296 ashpits weekly and 6,595 ashbins twice weekly, together with trade refuse from 73 shops etc., necessitating a total of 19.632 visits each week.

The estimated amount of refuse is approximately 40,000 tons per annum.

The refuse is abnormally heavy and peculiar to a colliery district where the coal, supplied free to the miners, besides being small and dusty contains a certain amount of stone.

The refuse has to be tranpsorted over steep gradients and each vehicle, with a capacity of 8 cubic yards, contains at least 3 tons nett of refuse, which represents the contents from an average of 40 ashpits or correspondingly 80 ashbins.

The total annual cost of collection and disposal for the year was £16,120. This gives a rate of 8/1d. per ton and an equivalent rate in the pound of 23d. The average weight of refuse per 1,000 population per day is 45 cwts., and the nett cost per 1,000 population per year is £336.

SALVAGE :

House to house collection is carried out each week when collecting house refuse by the use of trailers fitted to each refuse vehicle.

During the year 82 tons 18¼ cwts. of waste-paper was collected and despatched for salvage.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS :

During the year 16 Council and 6 private houses were found to be infested with bed bugs. The council houses were disinfested by the Local Authority and the private houses by the occupiers.

The method of disinfestation was by spraying with insecticides followed by fumigation. Where necessary the infested woodwork—such as picture-rails and skirting boards—was removed and destroyed. The occupiers were then instructed to cleanse the houses by washing down with soap and water. Frequent inspections were made and advice given to the occupiers until the premises were free from vermin.

RODENT CONTROL :

Operations were carried out at 28 private premises and 12 sewerage works and refuse tips.

It is estimated that a total of 1,600 rats and 50 mice were destroyed during the year.

MILK & DAIRIES ORDER, 1926 :

The following were on the Register at the end of the year :

52 Cowkeepers (including 14 Accredited Producers).
56 Dairies.
53 Retail Purveyors of Milk.
55 Retail Purveyors of Bottled Milk.
1 Pasteurised (Licence).

All the Cowsheds and Dairies were frequently inspected. The General hygiene in the byres and dairies was fairly well maintained during the year.

Milk Samples.

16 Samples of Ordinary Milk and 11 Samples of Pasteurised Milk were submitted for bacteriological examination.

3 Samples of Ordinary Milk and 11 Samples of Pasteurised Milk were found to be satisfactory.

8 Samples of Ordinary Milk were found to be unsatisfactory. These were all from bulk accommodation supplies delivered to the local pasteurisation dairy for heat treatment.

3 Bottles were submitted for sterilisation test and were found to be satisfactory.

FOOD & DRUGS ACT, 1938.

The following number of premises were registered under this Act and routine inspections were carried out during the year.

Ice Cream Manufacture	11
Sale	21
Storage	4
Preparation or manufacture of Sausages or Potted, Pressed or Preserved food intended for sale	35

Ice Cream.

Samples of Ice Cream were taken from all the registered premises and submitted for bacteriological examination. Where it was found that samples showed a high bacterial count, the producers were advised as to the necessary precautionary measures to be taken for effective sterilisation.

It is pleasing to report that on submitting further Ice Cream samples for bacteriological examination it was found that there was a marked improvement in the general standard of cleanliness and this has been well maintained.

Meat and Other Foods.

The slaughter of food animals is carried out at a central depot outside the district and the meat is brought into three Distribution Depots and inspected prior to allocation to the butchers.

In addition, 208 Pigs were slaughtered in the district by pig keepers, under special permits from the Ministry of Food.

During the year the following articles of food were found to be unfit for human consumption and destroyed :

111 lbs. Home Killed Beef.
120 lbs. Minced Beef.
1 Pig's Heart.
5 lbs. Lard.
95½ lbs. Bacon.
28 lbs. Sausage.
38 lbs. Split Peas.
56 lbs. Smoke Fillet.
74 lbs. 10 oz. Margarine.
700 lbs. Dried Fruit.
1 Box Prunes.
5 tins Beef.
3 tins Ox Tongue.
1 tin Pork.
20 tins Luncheon Meat.
1 tin Steak & Kidney Pud.
21 tins Meat & Vegetables.
372 lbs. Imported Beef.
1 pr. Pig's lungs.
1 Pig's Liver
7 lbs. Tongue.
74 lbs. Ham.
25 lbs. Tomatoes.
56 lbs. Kippers.
11 lbs. 13½ oz. Butter.
14 lbs. Cheese.
5½ boxes Oranges.
1 bag Cauliflower.
7 tins Chopped and Spiced Ham.
70 tins Steak.
12 tins Sausage Meat.
4 tins Meat Roll.
8 jars Danish Spread.
17 tins Soup.

153 tins Vegetables.
29 jars Chutney.
1 tin Spaghetti.
189 tins Fish.
56 lbs. Soyghetti.
2 tins Date Pudding.
1 bottle Coffee.
47 tins Fruit.
15 packets Saccharines.
11 lbs. 14 oz. Sweets, Chocolate, etc.
3 tins Peas Pudding.
1 jar Pickles.
5 bottles Sauce.
1 jar Kipper Paste.
1 tin Macaroni.
44 tins Jam, Treacle, etc.
153 tins of Milk.
8 packets Barley.
2 tins Biscuits.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES :

The ambulance services, the co-ordination of which will take place in July, 1948, appear to be quite adequate for the Area. They consist of 14 Ambulances, 9 Ambulance Stations and 7 wholetime Drivers. The following is a list of Ambulance Stations in the Area together with their establishment of ambulances.

Station.	**No. of Ambulances.**
West Stanley Welfare	1
Stanley Urban District Council	3
East Tanfield Colliery	1
Dipton Colliery Welfare	1
Stanley Colliery	1
Holmside & South Moor Welfare	2
Burnopfield Ambulance Association	2
Beamish Engineer Works	1
Burnopfield Colliery	2

COUNCIL AMBULANCE SERVICE :

Two converted A.R.P. Ambulances are on service. These vehicles were originally private cars and have been on the road since 1934, therefore it will be appreciated that it has been very difficult to keep them roadworthy.

An order for a new ambulance was placed during the year and it is hoped that this will be in service during 1947.

A twenty-four hour service has been maintained by the employment of two Ambulance Drivers (full-time).

During the year 288 calls were received and the total mileage for both vehicles was 6,374. The total costs of the service was £874 and the amount recovered by way of charges was £312.

FACTORIES :

During the year 150 inspections were carried out in the various factories in the Area and defects were found on 20 premises, 18 of which were remedied by occupiers.

The following is a list of factories in the Area.

Ice-cream Manufacturers	10
Bakers	13
Butchers	14
Mineral Water Manufacturers	2
Milk Pasteuriser	1
Gut Scraper	1
Dressmakers and Milliners	6
Printers	4
Ink Manufacturer	1
Plumbers	3
Builders	4
Joiners	6
Painter	1
Blacksmiths	3
Boot Repairers	14
Radio Repairers	2
Watch Repairers	4
Marine Dealers	2
Electrical Sub-stations	5
Gas Works	2
Motor Repairers and Garages	23
Brick and Tile Works	1
Sawmill	1
Saddler	1
Haulage Contractor	1
Total	125

In conclusion I wish to express my thanks for the consideration and support of the Council and members of the Staff.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

K. ELLIOTT,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

McKinlay, Printer, Stanley.